which groups of migrants have visited various districts of the Valley and interacted with the locals with a view to pave the way for the return of the migrants.

Atrocities on Christians

212. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instituted any enquiry into the recent incidents of atrocities on Churches and members of Christian community in several State;

(b) whether Government have got in touch with concerned State Governments to find out and bring to book culprits responsible for such activities;

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Central Government has, on 29.1.99, appointed a Commission of Inquiry, consisting of Mr. Justice D.P. Wadhwa, a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court of India, to inquire into the killing of Mr. Graham Stewart Stains, an Australian national, and his two sons in Village Manoharpur. District Keonjhar, Orissa. The Commission has been asked to submit its report within 60 days.

(b) A Central Team was deputed to Gujarat on December 30, 1998 to interact with senior State Government functionaries in connection with the situation arising out of reported attacks on Christians and their institutions in the State and to ascertain the steps taken by the State authorities to control the situation. The Central Team recommended several confidence building measures to defuse the situation and ensure communal harmony. Based on the report of the Central Team, appropriate instructions were issued.

(c) Though 'Police and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India and maintenance of law and order and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, the Central Government has been taking several measures to keep the communal situation under control and provide necessary protection to the minorities. After the recent incidents involving minorities, the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States have been advised to issue suitable instructions to the district law and order enforcing authorities to respond immediately to the complaints relating to harassment of minorities and initiate prompt and effective action to identify and punish guilty persons.

(d) The Government is firmly of the view that acts of violence against any community, wherever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and exemplary punishment award to the prepetrators of such violence.

Attack on Christians in Gujarat

213. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons injured, the value of property damaged and number Churches destroyed in attacks on Christians in Gujarat during the last three months;

(b) the details of reports submitted by the Central Government team sent to enquire into incidents of attack on Christians in that State; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) According to available information, 24 persons were injured in attacks on Christians in Gujarat during the last three months.

"Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects under the Constitution of India.